Balochistan PA slams 'exorbitant' fares for flights from Quetta

• Resolution demands urgent action against PIA and private airlines • One-way fares to Karachi, Islamabad touch up to Rs70,000

By Saleem Shahid

QUETTA: The treasury and opposition members of the Balochistan Assembly on Tuesday expressed serious concern over the extraordinary increases in PIA and private airlines' airfares for flights from Quetta to other cities of Pakistan.

The House unanimously adopted a resolution demanding immediate action against the national flag carrier and other airlines.

The resolution was moved by JUI-F MPA Shahida Rauf during a session presided over by Speaker Abdul Khaliq Achakzai. She highlighted sudden and disproportionate airfare hikes imposed by PIA and private carriers on flights originating from Quetta, noting that one-way fares to Karachi had surged to between Rs43, 000 and Rs60, 000, while fares to Islamabad had crossed Rs70, 000. In contrast, flights from Karachi to Lahore or Islamabad cost only Rs15,000 to Rs20, 000.

She said the price disparity reflected clear discrimination against the people of Balochistan and was severely affecting the province's mobility, trade, and administrative connectivity with the rest of the country. With frequent highway closures and disruptions in rail services, she added, air travel remained the only reliable option for Balochistan's residents — yet it had been made largely unaffordable.

She urged the provincial government to engage the federal government, the Ministry of Aviation, PIA, and private airlines to ensure that airfares from Quetta and other airports in the province were brought in line with rates elsewhere in the country. She also called for the formation of a parliamentary committee and demanded that airline officials be summoned to the assembly.

Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti termed the resolution significant, noting that while parliamentarians might manage the high fares, ordinary citizens could not. He said he had already written to the prime minister and spoken to Defence Minister Khawaja Asif about the matter. He invited parliamentary leaders to accompany him to Islamabad this week for meetings with the prime minister and the federal minister for aviation, taking the resolution along.

He warned that if airlines did not address the matter, the provincial government would exercise its authority and detain the managers of airlines working in Quetta under Section 16 of the MPO.

He said it was "unacceptable" that flights from Quetta were more expensive than flights to Dubai or major domestic routes such as Karachi–Islamabad or Karachi–Peshawar. He stressed that the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) was responsible for regulating private airlines and said the province would press the federal government to find a permanent solution.

Deputy Speaker Ghazala Gola said airfares had become "unbearable" for ordinary citizens and proposed that the resolution be adopted as a joint resolution of the entire House. Provincial Education Minister Raheela Hameed Durrani supported the suggestion and added that representatives of the Ministry of Aviation should also be summoned. She noted that fares were "exorbitant" and often increased "hour by hour," calling for direct engagement with federal authorities in Islamabad.

BNP-Awami President Mir Asadullah Baloch strongly criticised the federal government for consistently ignoring assembly resolutions, saying real results would come only if lawmakers collectively ensured follow-up and implementation. Parliamentary Secretary Meena Majeed backed the resolution and proposed adding a demand for flights between Quetta, Turbat, and Gwadar.

ANP's Engineer Zamarak Khan Achakzai said discriminatory treatment by airlines toward Balochistan was not new. He noted that private airlines were not operating from Quetta at all and that flights were frequently cancelled without notice. He demanded that private carriers be compelled to operate from Quetta and that airfares be standardised across the country. If grievances persisted, he suggested approaching the courts.

BAP's Farah Azeem Shah and Parliamentary Secretary Barkat Rind also spoke, emphasising the severity of the issue and calling for weekly flights between Quetta and Turbat.

Adviser to the Chief Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs Meena Majeed Baloch informed the House that she had paid Rs80,000 for a one-way ticket from Islamabad to Quetta.

In Bangladesh, Fazl calls for a new future

Dawn Report

MAULANA Fazlur Rehman visits Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in Dhaka.

KARACHI: JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman on Tuesday said that Pakistan had moved past "bitter memories" and urged the forging of a new future with Bangladesh amid the recent warming of ties between the two countries.

Ever since a popular uprising in Bangladesh toppled Sheikh Hasina's government in August last year, there has been a thaw in ties between Islamabad and Dhaka, with trade and bilateral relations seeing a marked improvement.

The Maulana is currently on a visit to the country and called for stronger ties, telling a large religious gathering that a shared "unity of faith was a stronger bond between the two nations that cannot be abolished".

Addressing a gathering of Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam members at Dhaka's Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre as the chief guest with several other Bengali political parties in attendance, the Maulana said: "Pakistan wants Bangladesh's prosperity and stability, has forgotten the bitter memories of the past."

He reiterated that the people of Pakistan had "forgotten the old bitter memories", adding that now "a new future has to be carved".

The JUI-F chief added Pakistan saw Bangladesh as a "brother". "We were one, and God willing, we will remain one. Relations between Pakistan and Bangladesh will be strengthened by the spirit of goodwill," he added.

Govt committed to providing all facilities to Sikh pilgrims, says PM

By Syed Irfan Raza

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday said the government was committed to providing all possible facilities to the Sikh community members visiting Pakistan.

He said that Pakistan was home to numerous sacred religious sites for the Sikhs, where members of the Sikh community from all over the world came to perform their religious rituals and Pakistan ensured their hospitality.

The prime minister met President of Sikhs of America Jasdeep Singh who called on him, the PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The meeting was also attended by Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar and Pakistani-American businessman Sajid Tarar.

The prime minister said that it was a matter of pride that Pakistan was ensuring the maintenance of Sikh community's sacred sites and Gurdwaras, as well as providing all possible facilities to them.

He said the government would provide more facilities to Sikh pilgrims from around the world.

While referring to the Pakistani diaspora, the prime minister said that they were playing a vital role in the country's development, prosperity and bringing global recognition to Pakistan.

Jasdeep Singh thanked the prime minister and the government of Pakistan for their hospitality and the warm reception extended to Sikh pilgrims in Pakistan.

Cloudflare fault hits world's productivity

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accessing platforms such as Canva, X and ChatGPT, prompting users to log outage reports with Downdetector.

NetBlocks, a global internet monitor working at the intersection of digital rights, cybersecurity and internet governance, said in a post on X that "a wide range of online services are currently experiencing disruptions due to a technical issue affecting Cloudflare's global network", stressing that the incident was not related to country-level internet shutdowns or filtering.

The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) also acknowledged the impact of the global disruption on local users.

The regulator said it was "closely monitoring a major global outage impacting X (Twitter) and Cloudflare. PTA is in contact with global platforms and local operators and will continue to observe the situation until services are fully restored".

On its X account, Cloudflare initially said it was "aware of, and investigating an issue which potentially impacts multiple customers", promising further details as more information became available.

At about 7:45pm Pakistan time, roughly two hours after the problems began to ease, the company posted: "A fix has been implemented and we believe the incident is now resolved. We are continuing to monitor for errors to ensure all services are back to normal."

On its website, the company said, "Our vast global network, which is one of the fastest on the planet, is trusted by millions of web properties. With direct connections to nearly every service provider and cloud provider, the Cloudflare network can reach about 95pc of the world's population within approximately 50 milliseconds."

Opposition marches from parliament to apex court

Continued from Page 1

and also warned Aleema of arrest. In response to a question, Aleema Khan said the 26th Amendment had made the court silent while the 27th Amendment bulldozed it.

Mr Khan, imprisoned since August 2023, is serving a sentence at the Adiala jail in a £190 million corruption case and also faces pending trials under the Anti-Terrorism Act related to the protests of May 9, 2023. The PTI has regularly raised concerns about his health and that of the former first lady.

Last month, his legal team approached United Nations Special Rapporteur on Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment Dr Alice J Edwards to urge the Pakistani government to cease the alleged mistreatment of the couple.

Qureshi's surgery

Meanwhile, the PTI media wing said party's vice chief Shah Mahmood Qureshi underwent a successful gallbladder surgery on Tuesday morning at the PKLI hospital in Lahore. In a statement issued, the party claimed that despite the hardships of imprisonment, Mr Qureshi has continued to face these ordeals with extraordinary courage.

"His two and a half years of wrongful incarceration and unwavering resolve serve as a beacon of inspiration for the entire party. We take pride in the courage of all our prisoners of conscience and continue to pray for their swift release," it stated.

Key judicial bodies reshaped post-27th Amendment

Continued from Page 1

accountability, judicial appointments and procedural governance under the amended constitutional scheme," the press release said.

The changes in the bodies' composition come amid a restructuring of th judiciary following the enactment of the 27th Amendment.

The contentious amendment, which led to the establishment of the FCC, was passed by parliament amid opposition outcry. It has been criticised by some legal experts as a means of dethroning the Supreme Court as the country's highest judicial forum and ceding that position to the FCC.

Former and sitting judges, as well as lawyers, have voiced opposition to the amendment, particularly over its implications for the Supreme Court.

Hours after the amendment was enacted on Nov 13, two Supreme Court judges — senior puisne judge Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah and Justice Athar Minallah — resigned, citing reservations about the new law.

ICJ's reservations

The International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) also raised concerns about several key aspects of the amendment, including the creation of the FCC, the appointment of judges and chief justices to the Supreme Court and FCC, the composition of the JCP, the transfer of high court judges and the immunities granted to the president and military leadership.

"Before the amendment, the Supreme Court of Pakistan exercised the functions that have now been given to the FCC," the ICJ said in a statement issued last week. "Following the amendment, the Supreme Court will now effectively be an appellate court only in matters that do not involve the interpretation of the Constitution of Pakistan."

The ICJ noted that the first batch of FCC judges would be appointed by the president on the prime minister's advice, with future judges appointed on the recommendation of the JCP, while the FCC chief justice would be chosen by a "special parliamentary committee".

"The amendment does not provide any criteria on which the appointments will be made and does not require reasons to be given for the appointments, apart from general qualifications necessary to be considered a judge of the FCC," the statement said.

"The appointments are also of concern as the [chief justice] of the FCC and the senior-most judge of the FCC will also be members of the Judicial Commission of Pakistan … and the Supreme Judicial Council," it added.

ECC clears projects

Continued from Page 1

arrangement also involves the extension of licence periods and the assignment of working interests for offshore oil and gas exploration blocks.

Other terms of engagement and incentives remain under wraps. Petroleum Division spokesperson Zafar Abbas did not respond to requests for comment. A statement, however, said the deal would bring "valuable international offshore operating experience" to Pakistan's exploration landscape and would be expected to enhance technical capabilities, operational efficiency and overall project delivery.

"The block contains a drill-ready prospect, which will now be pursued by this consortium under the operator-ship of TPOC," the Petroleum Division said, adding that the upcoming exploration well was expected to attract substantial foreign direct investment into Pakistan's offshore sector. TPOC has separately taken stakes in two other offshore exploration blocks with Mari Energies, awarded by the government last week.

The ECC also approved the creation of a new SPV — the Wheat Stock Management Company (WSMC) — which it had rejected in its meeting last week, to replace Passco in line with the government's decision to wind up the corporation.

"The committee approved the formation of the SPV, allowing an initial paid-up capital of Rs1,000,000 and reducing the authorised capital in line with requirements for the structured winding down of the organisation," an official statement said.

The Ministry of National Food Security had originally proposed WSMC with an authorised capital of Rs150bn, but the ECC significantly scaled this down, an official said, without elaborating. The SPV is expected to arrange long-term financing from commercial banks, backed by sovereign guarantees, to settle Passco's liabilities, after which the corporation will stand dissolved.

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TENDER NOTICE

Bids are invited from reputable parties for the following:

S/No.	Item Description	Bid Bond Amount	Bid Submission / Opening Date & Time	Tender Issuance Date / Tender Fee
1	**Tender No. 6000008963** REPAIR AND MAINTENACE OF EXISTING ROAD CULVERTS AND ACCESS RAMPS AT TS-II, PARCO-MCR. https://discovery.ariba.com/rfx/23570491	**Rs. 90,000/-**	Bid Submission Through SAP Ariba **09.12.2025 15:00 PST** Bid Opening: **09.12.2025 15:30 PST**	Tender Issuance Through SAP Ariba **19.11.2025 to 27.11.2025 / Free of Cost.**

Any reputable party interested to participate in the tender may send its request for tender document through SAP Ariba Portal Link. Complete details are also available on the PARCO website **https://www.parco.com.pk/tenders**

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1	**Single Stage One Envelope:** Fire & Gas Detection System at OMC Header **Tender Enquiry # 6000008583-25-24 copy of valid PEC-C6 or above** https://discovery.ariba.com/rfx/23568230	**Rs. 100,000/-**	Bid Submission Through SAP Ariba **03.12.2025 15:00 PST** Bid Opening: **03.12.2025 15:30 PST**	Tender Issuance Through SAP Ariba **19.11.2025 to 26.11.2025 / Free of Cost.**
2	**Single Stage One Envelope:** Fall Protection System for HSD loading and Inspection bays at Gantry **Tender Enquiry # 6000008585-25-17 copy of valid PEC-C6 or above** https://discovery.ariba.com/rfx/23570203	**Rs. 143,000/-**	Bid Submission Through SAP Ariba **03.12.2025 15:00 PST** Bid Opening: **03.12.2025 16:00 PST**	Tender Issuance Through SAP Ariba **19.11.2025 to 26.11.2025 / Free of Cost.**

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SIUT, a 1500-bedded tertiary care teaching hospital providing comprehensive care to patients with renal and related diseases.

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Office of the Director
Sindh Institute of Urology & Transplantation, Karachi.
Tel: (021) 99216977, 99215718/52, 111 000 313

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PRINCIPAL

Email: admission@aitchison.edu.pk

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Bids are invited from reputable parties for the following:

S/No	Item Description	Bid Bond Amount	Bid Submission / Opening Date & Time	Tender Issuance Date
1	**Tender Enquiry No. MCR/MTL/Scrap-02/2025** Sale of miscellaneous scrap on **"As is where is"** basis at PARCO-MCR, Mahmood Kot.	**05% of the quoted amount against each lot/-**	Bid Submission: **18.12.2025 15:00 PST** Bid Opening: **18.12.2025 15:30 PST**	Tender Selling **19.11.2025 to 02.12.2025 / Free of Cost.**

Any reputable party interested to participate in the tender may send its request on the company letter head for tender document through Email at **hymna.taimoor@parco.com.pk, services_mcr@parco.com.pk**

Details of Lots:

Lot #	Details of Lots	Quantity
1	OLD TYRES	01 LOT
2	WOODEN LOGS & PACKING MATERIAL	01 LOT
3	ELECTRICAL ITEMS	01 LOT
4	RUBBER & PLASTIC ITEMS	01 LOT
5	OFFICE COMPUTERS & PRINTERS	01 LOT
6	AC'S REFRIGERATORS & ELECTRIC WATER COOLERS	01 LOT
7	MISC HOSPITAL/LABORATORY ITEMS	01 LOT
8	MISC ELECTRONICS ITEMS	01 LOT
9	MISC. ITEMS	01 LOT

The bidder should be registered with the federal income tax authorities and shall maintain its status as an active/filer taxpayer with those tax authorities while rendering services to PARCO.

PARCO reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to cancel the entire bidding process without assigning any reason whatsoever before or after the bid opening.

This advertisement is also available on the PARCO website **https://www.parco.com.pk/tenders**

Further information may be obtained from Materials Department-MCR, Telephone No. (92-066) 2290990-98 Ext. 2863 and 2508.

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